

## **Upton Land Stewardship Committee (ULSC) Annual Report 2010**

In 2010 the ULSC continued with the implementation of the Land Stewardship Plan for the Former Stefans Farm Parcel.

The community garden was expanded with financial assistance in the way of a second grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund of \$1250. A post and beam storage shed was constructed and nine additional raised bed plots were built and made available to Upton residents at no cost to them; two of those plots were customized to accommodate individuals with physical challenges. Two plots were again dedicated to the growing of produce for the United Parish food pantry.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant of \$2233 was used for improvement of trails and trailheads and construction of the parking area at the Former Stefans Farm. Additional trails have been constructed. A brush cutter was purchased to facilitate trail and parking area maintenance. Another grant proposal has been submitted to RTP for funds to further support work on this parcel.

The Upton Men's Club covered the cost of mowing all the fields at the Former Stefans Farm.

A grant proposal was submitted to RTP to support possible trail work at Sweetwilliam Farm, should the preservation project there be successful.

At the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area (WBWCA), a bridge was constructed by Anthony Ward and members of Troop 132 as an eagle project. Funding was provided by the Community Preservation Act.

Volunteers from the Upton Women's Club planted bulbs in the parking area at the WBWCA as a beautification project.

An Eagle Scout bridge project was completed by Jeff Gruber, and a second one is under way by Patrick Nigro at the Eleanor T. Howarth Conservation Land off of North Street to connect with trails at the Warren Brook Conservation Area, both with the help of Troop 132.

Trails have been cut on conservation land off of Howarth Drive at the Glen Echo development, and signs indicating the 500 foot no discharge zone were placed.

The ULSC was granted permission to maintain the field adjacent to the Eleanor T. Howarth Conservation Area and Richard Howarth was hired to mow it with help in clearing the edges provided by volunteers.

The ULSC received authorization from the Board of Selectmen to manage the Goss Pond area donated to the town by Robert Henderson.

### **Committee Members:**

Tom Dodd  
Scott Heim  
Mike Penko-Secretary  
Marcella Stasa-Chairperson  
Cathy Taylor

In addition to the many hours contributed by the Eagle scout projects, approximately 120 work hours were contributed by volunteers and committee members to develop the community garden, map and enhance trail networks, and develop grant proposals.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Stasa